

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CASC (CODY, EDWARD)

SUBJECT: PROTEST OVER EXPULSION OF AP CORRESPONDENT CODY

REF: NEW DELHI 10695

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR KAUL FROM WASHINGTON, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS LODGED ORAL PROTEST REGARDING EXPULSION OF AP CORRESPONDENT CODY WITH INDIAN EMBASSY MINISTER DIXIT AUGUST 7. DUBS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT EDWARD CODY, ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT, HAS BEEN SERVED AN EXPULSION NOTICE FROM INDIA FOR BREAKING CENSORSHIP GUIDELINES.

B. THE USG AS MATTER OF NATIONAL POLICY REGRETS ANY ABRIDGMENT OF THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION WHEREVER IT MAY OCCUR. WHAT WE HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY ABOUT THE EXPULSION OF LEWIS SIMONS OF THE "WASHINGTON POST" AND THE EXPULSION OF LOREN JENKINS OF "NEWSWEEK" APPLIES EQUALLY TO THE AP CASE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WISH TO REGISTER OUR OFFICIAL PROTEST

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OVER THE GOI ACTION AGAINST CODY.

C. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO WANTS TO REITERATE THE COMPLAINTS MADE AUGUST 1 TO MEA JOINT SECRETARY HAKSAR BY ACTING DCM KREISBERG ABOUT GOI HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN INDIA. TO DATE, THIS HAS INCLUDED INTER ALIA THE IMPROPER

AND OBJECTIONABLE QUESTIONING OF TWO REPORTERS (AP AND NYT) AT A POLICE STATION, UNDUE DELAY IN RETURNING WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT SIMONS' CONFISCATED NOTE-BOOKS, AND THE CUTTING OF TELEPHONE AND TELEX SERVICES OF AT LEAST THREE NEWS AGENCIES (WASHINGTON POST, AP AND UPI).

D. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, THESE EXPULSIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS CAN ONLY FUEL CRITICISM OF INDIA IN THE U.S. WITH AN INEVITABLE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE CLIMATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. DIXIT, WHO TOOK DOWN VERBATIM TEXT OF ORAL PROTEST, SAID THAT HE WOULD, AS DUBS HAD REQUESTED, CONVEY THE TEXT OF THE PROTEST TO AMBASSADOR KAUL UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN THE EVENING AND TO NEW DELHI. DIXIT SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THERE WAS SOME REASON FOR THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AND ADDED THAT A REPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S PROTEST WOULD NO DOUBT BE FORTHCOMING.

3. IF EMBASSY HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, IT SHOULD FOLLOW UP PROTEST OVER CODY'S EXPULSION AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN MEA. KISSINGER

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